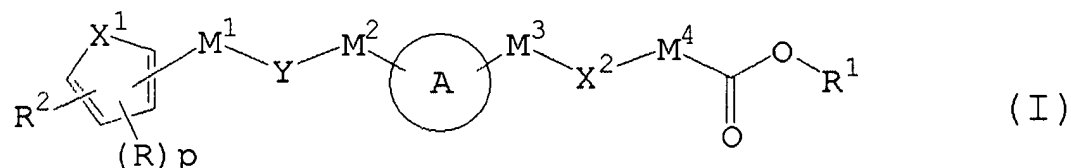


## Amendments to the Claims

**1. (Currently amended)** A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,  
p is 0, 1 or 2, and when p is 2, each R may be the same or different,

R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene, ~~an optionally substituted oxazole, an optionally substituted thiazole, an optionally substituted benzothiophen, an optionally substituted benzofuran or an optionally substituted indazole,~~

X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond~~, an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)- or -N(R<sup>3</sup>)-C(=O)- and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M<sup>1</sup>, and M<sup>2</sup> ~~and~~ M<sup>3</sup> may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, M<sup>3</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group and M<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, M<sup>1</sup> is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond and one of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> is a bond, the other of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> is neither a bond nor methylene; ~~and (3) 3-[3-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-~~

~~3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl] 2-propenoic acid and 4-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded.~~

**2. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted aralkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl or an optionally substituted aryl.

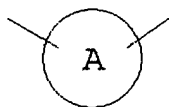
**3. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein p is 1.

**4. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom.

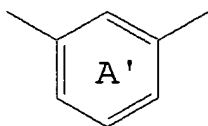
**5. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenyl.

**6-8. (Cancelled)**

**9. (Previously presented)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein the formula:



is the formula:



wherein Ring A' is an optionally further substituted benzene ring.

**10. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom.

**11. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

**12. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein Y is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

**13. (Previously presented)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein Y is -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)-, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and the carbon atom is bonded to M<sup>1</sup>, and the nitrogen atom to M<sup>2</sup>.

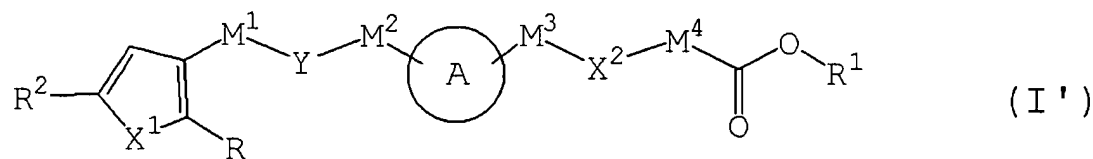
**14. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 13, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted aralkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl or an optionally substituted aryl.

**15. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein M<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene having 3 or more carbon atoms.

**16. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein M<sup>1</sup> and, M<sup>2</sup> ~~and~~ M<sup>3</sup> may be the same or different and are each independently a bond, an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, M<sup>3</sup> is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, and M<sup>4</sup> is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene.

**17. (Cancelled)**

**18. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein the formula (I) is



wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene, ~~an optionally substituted oxazole, an optionally substituted thiazole, an optionally substituted benzothiophen, an optionally substituted benzofuran or an optionally substituted indazole,~~

X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

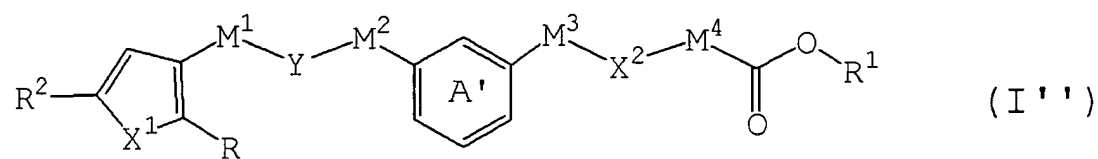
Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)- or -N(R<sup>3</sup>)-C(=O)- and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M<sup>1</sup>, and M<sup>2</sup> ~~and M<sup>3</sup>~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, M<sup>3</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and M<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, M<sup>1</sup> is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond and one of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> is a bond, the other of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> is neither a bond nor methylene, ~~and (3) 3-[3-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded.~~

**19. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 18, wherein the formula (I') is



wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A' is an optionally further substituted benzene ring,

X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond~~, an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)- or -N(R<sup>3</sup>)-C(=O)- and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M<sup>1</sup>; and M<sup>2</sup> ~~and~~ M<sup>3</sup> may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, M<sup>3</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and M<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

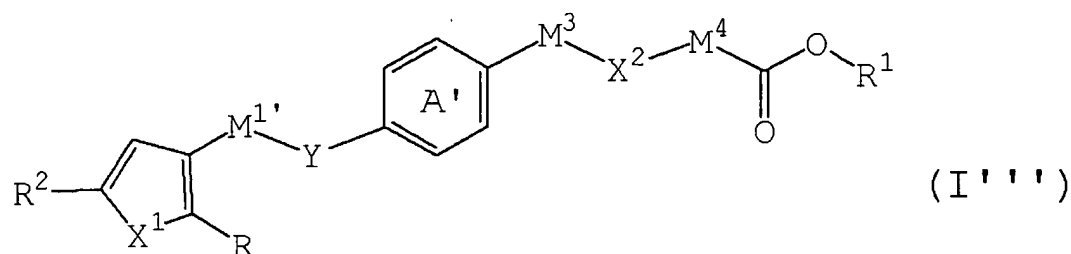
provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, M<sup>1</sup> is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond and one of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> is a bond, the other of M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>2</sup> is neither a bond nor methylene; and (3) ~~3-[3-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded.~~

**20. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 19, wherein X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom, X<sup>2</sup> is an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, Y is an oxygen atom, M<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-3</sub> alkylene, M<sup>2</sup> is a bond, M<sup>3</sup> is ~~a bond or~~ an optionally substituted methylene, and M<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted methylene.

**21. (Original)** The compound according to the claim 20, wherein M<sup>1</sup> and M<sup>3</sup> may be the same or different and are each independently an optionally substituted methylene.

**22-25. (Cancelled)**

**26. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 18, wherein the formula (I') is



wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A' is an optionally further substituted benzene ring,

X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond~~, an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)- or -N(R<sup>3</sup>)-C(=O)- and R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M<sup>1'</sup> is an alkylene group having 3 or more carbon atoms,

M<sup>3</sup> is ~~a bond or~~ an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and

M<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or -S(O)<sub>m</sub>-, M<sup>1'</sup> is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond M<sup>1'</sup> is neither a bond nor methylene, ~~and (3) 3-[3-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded.~~

**27. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl group, p is 0 or 1, R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom, R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenyl group, Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene ring ~~or an optionally~~

~~substituted thiazole ring~~, X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom, X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond or~~ an oxygen atom, Y is an oxygen atom or -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)-, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, alkyl or aralkyl, and the carbon atom is bonded to M<sup>1</sup>, and the nitrogen atom to M<sup>2</sup>, ~~M<sup>1</sup>, and M<sup>2</sup> and M<sup>3</sup>~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or alkylene, M<sup>3</sup> is alkylene, and M<sup>4</sup> is alkylene.

**28. (Currently amended)** The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl group, p is 0 or 1, R<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom, R<sup>2</sup> is an optionally substituted phenyl group, Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene ring ~~or an optionally substituted thiazole ring~~, X<sup>1</sup> is an oxygen atom, X<sup>2</sup> is ~~a bond or~~ -S(O)<sub>n</sub>-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, Y is an oxygen atom or -C(=O)-N(R<sup>3</sup>)-, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom, alkyl or aralkyl, and the carbon atom is bonded to M<sup>1</sup>, and the nitrogen atom to M<sup>2</sup>, ~~M<sup>1</sup>, and M<sup>2</sup> and M<sup>3</sup>~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or alkylene, M<sup>3</sup> is alkylene, and M<sup>4</sup> is alkylene.

**29. (Original)** A prodrug of the compound according to the claim 1.

**30. (Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical medicine composition comprising the compound according to the claim 1 or a prodrug thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

**31. (Original)** An agent of regulating nuclear receptor PPAR comprising the compound according to the claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

**32. (Cancelled)**

**33. (Previously presented)** The agent according to the claim 31, which is a therapeutic agent for lipid metabolism abnormality or sequelae thereof, arteriosclerotic disease or sequelae thereof, diabetes mellitus, or impaired glucose tolerance.

**34. (Original)** The medicine according to the claim 30, which is an agent of raising high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, an agent of lowering triglyceride, an agent of lowering low-density lipoprotein cholesterol or an agent of suppressing progress of arteriosclerotic plaque.

**35. (Original)** An agent of regulating GPR40 receptor function comprising the compound according to the claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

**36. (Original)** The agent according to the claim 35, which is an agent of regulating insulin secretion, an agent of lowering blood glucose or an agent of protecting pancreatic  $\beta$  cell.

**37. (Previously presented)** The agent according to the claim 35, which is a therapeutic agent for diabetes mellitus, glucose intolerance, diabetic neuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy, hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, obesity, hypoglycaemia, insulin resistant syndrome, unstable diabetes mellitus, or insulin allergy.

**38-51. (Cancelled)**